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I hereby certify that this RESPONSE is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on this 16th day of April, 2004.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Janet L. Norris

Customer Number

24024

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of )  
Rikihisa *et al.* )

Examiner: Swartz, Rodney P.

Serial No.: 10/059,964 )

Group Art Unit: 1645

Filed: January 28, 2002 )

For: **OUTER MEMBRANE PROTEIN** )  
**OF EHRlichia CANIS AND** )  
**EHRlichia CHAFFEENSIS** )

Attorney Docket No.: 22727/04109

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 10, 2004, setting an initial due date of May 10, 2004.

Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the specification** begin on page: 2.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page: 6.

**Attachments** are listed on page 9.

**Remarks** begin on page 10.